

LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND PUBLIC SERVICES GROUP

PLANNING DIVISION

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MICHAEL E. HAYS
Director of Land Use Services

April 11, 2003

RESPONSIBLE AND TRUSTEE AGENCIES
INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

RE: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR THE MOLYCORP MOUNTAIN PASS MINE PROJECT**

Dear Reader/Reviewer:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed MolyCorp Mountain Pass Mine Project. The DEIR is also available on the San Bernardino County web page at www.sbcounty.gov/landuseservices. Please refer to the "Draft EIR" link on the left-hand side of the page.

MolyCorp is proposing to continue mining and mineral recovery operations under the current production rates at the Mountain Pass Mine facility for the next 30 years. To continue this operation, MolyCorp must obtain approval of a revised Reclamation Plan to cover disturbances from continued mining operations on an additional 268 acres. MolyCorp also must obtain Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) for construction and operation of a new 222-acre mine tailings storage facility (the East Tailings Storage Facility or ETSA) and 173 acres of new evaporation ponds (the Northwest Evaporation Ponds or NEP). The purpose of the document is to identify and describe the probable environmental impacts that would result from the proposed project. The project is located in eastern San Bernardino County, north of and adjacent to Interstate 15, approximately 30 miles northeast of Baker, California, and about 15 miles from the California-Nevada state line. The mine occupies the highest developed point of elevation (from 4,600 to 4,900 feet above mean sea level (amsl)) along the I-15 corridor between Barstow, California, and Las Vegas, Nevada.

This document has been prepared to meet the State requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. The Draft EIR has been prepared under the supervision of the County of San Bernardino Land Use Services Department.

The public comment period will end on May 26, 2003. Written comments should be addressed to:

County of San Bernardino, Land Use Services Department,
Advance Planning Division
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0182
Attn: MATTHEW W. SLOWIK, Senior Associate Planner

Sincerely,

MATTHEW SLOWIK, Senior Associate Planner
Land Use Services Department
Advance Planning Division

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